

Middle George River from Michikamats Lake

Introduction

The George River was (re)named in 1811 by two Moravian missionaries Benjamin Gottlieb Kohlmeister and George Kmoch. The Moravian Church (its members known as Hussites - followers of Jan Hus) was founded in the fifteenth century Bohemia (currently the Czech Republic). These two missionaries came first to Labrador, then to Ungava Bay with a vision to evangelize the Inuit. They wrote in their diary: "We then proclaimed the name of the Kangertlualuksoak henceforth to be 'George River' ". The Moravian brothers wanted to honour George III, king of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760. It was under his reign that the United States got their independence. The George River is also called "Kangirsualujjuap Kuunga" (river of the great bay) in Inuktitut, or "Mushuan Shipu" (River without trees) in Naskapi and "Metsheshu Shipu" (Eagle River) in Innu.

The George is a big, wide river. Compared to other major rivers of this area, it offers relatively easy and inexpensive access to Ungava Bay, hence its popularity. The George originates about 175 kilometres east of Schefferville in Lac Janniere, between bogs and swamps. The headwater lakes are shallow, connected by rushing rapids. After Lake Advance, the river runs through heavy whitewater until it reaches beautiful Indian House Lake, which stretches 60 km if measured by Canadian topo maps, or 100 km if measured by its flatwater character. After Indian House Lake, the George really starts to flow. It offers an abundance of rapids with various levels of difficulty until it reaches Kangiqsualujjuaq close to Ungava Bay. Because of its easy access, many people without the necessary experience and skills have travelled this river and unfortunately lost their lives. The river is big and powerful - the french word "Fleuve", also used to describe the St. Lawrence, describes it's character better than the word "Riviere". The power of the George leaves no room for error. Climatic conditions are ideal for hypothermia. Canoeists have to contend also with serious tidal effects in the last 40 km.

Words of Caution

These maps are based on the notes of Stewart Coffin (1998) and Philip Schubert (2008). The author of these maps did his job according to the information provided, but he has not paddled this section of the river. There is no guarantee that these maps do not contain numerous errors. Rapid classification is subjective. Our subjective evaluation of the class level of these rapids does NOT take into account the remoteness of the region (i.e. distance & time from help etc.), the water temperature (cold kills) & the size & power of this river (any swim could be a very long swim). Moreover, the class of rapids depends on the water level and that can change immensely through the season. Use the information provided here with caution. YOU are the only one responsible for your own decisions and for your own safety. The River described here is wild and very remote. Weather can be also very tough. DO YOUR OWN scouting & reconnaissance. Nobody is taking any responsibility for the information provided here or for your safety.

Distances

The distance on these maps is calculated from Kangiqsualujjuaq, an Inuit village at the end of the George River.

Portages

The Portage at Three Gorges starts at 399061 6143530 and ends at 399080 6144083.

The Portage at the waterfall at km 444 starts at 397447 6161508 and ends at 397691 6161897.

Credits

Source

Stewart Coffin (1998)

Philip Schubert (2008)

Base Topographic Maps

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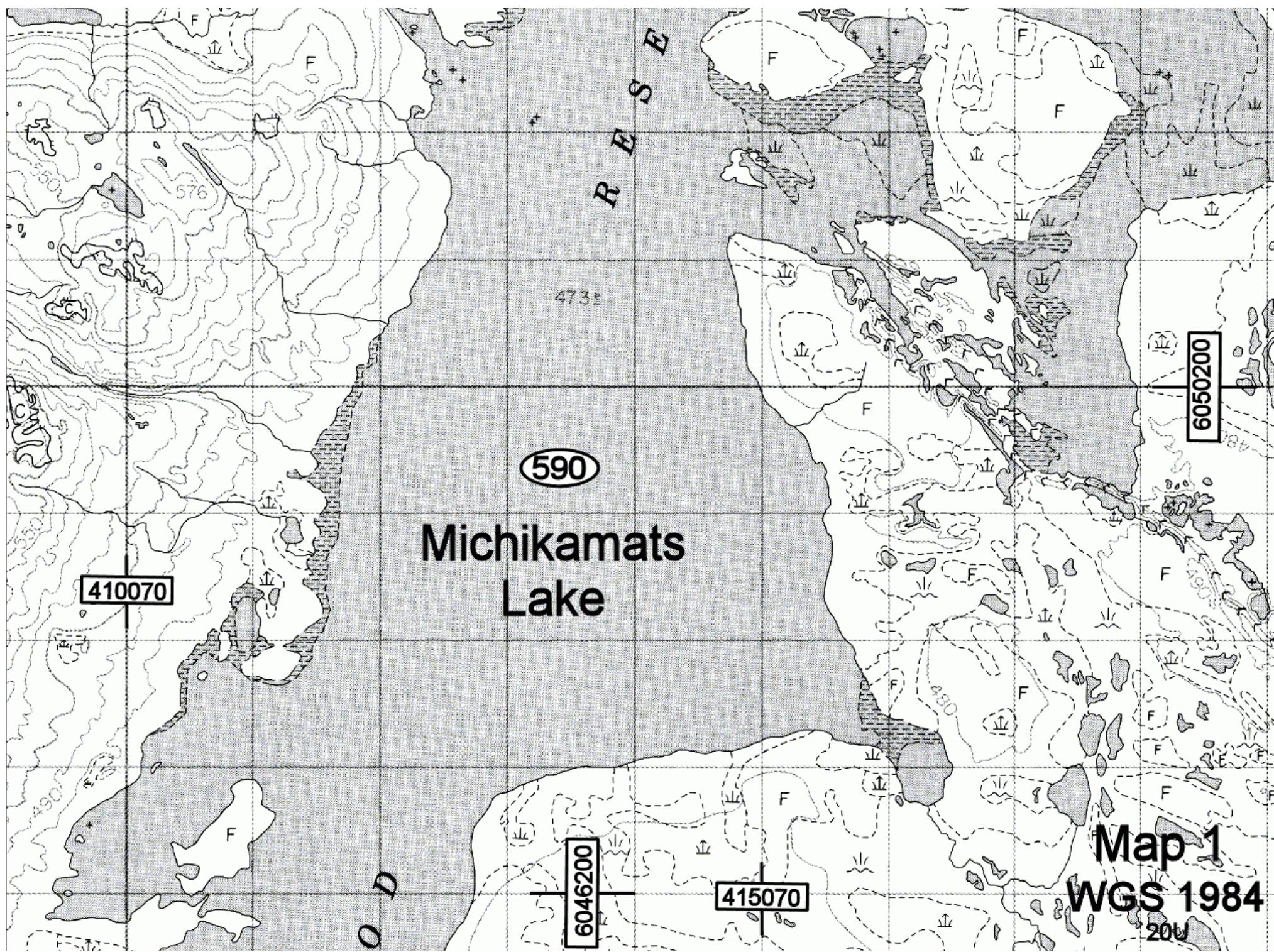
Map work/Text

Lester Kovac, summer 2008

Charles Leduc, fall 2008 (formatting)

Distribution

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Map 2
WGS 1984

20U

Michikamats Lake

6057200

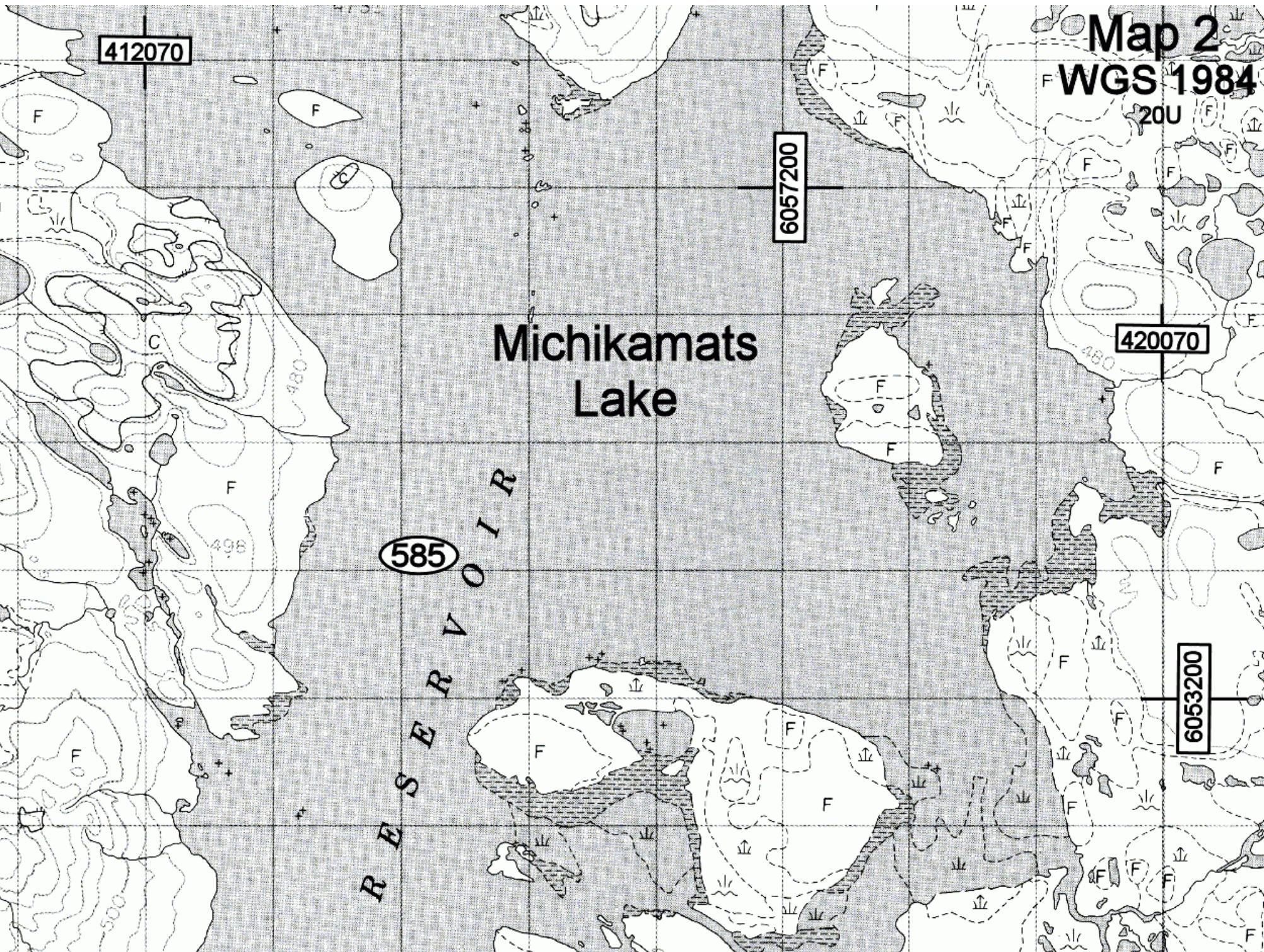
412070

420070

6053200

585

R E S E R V O I R



Map 3 WGS 1984

walking beside canoe

marsh, padleable

575

417080

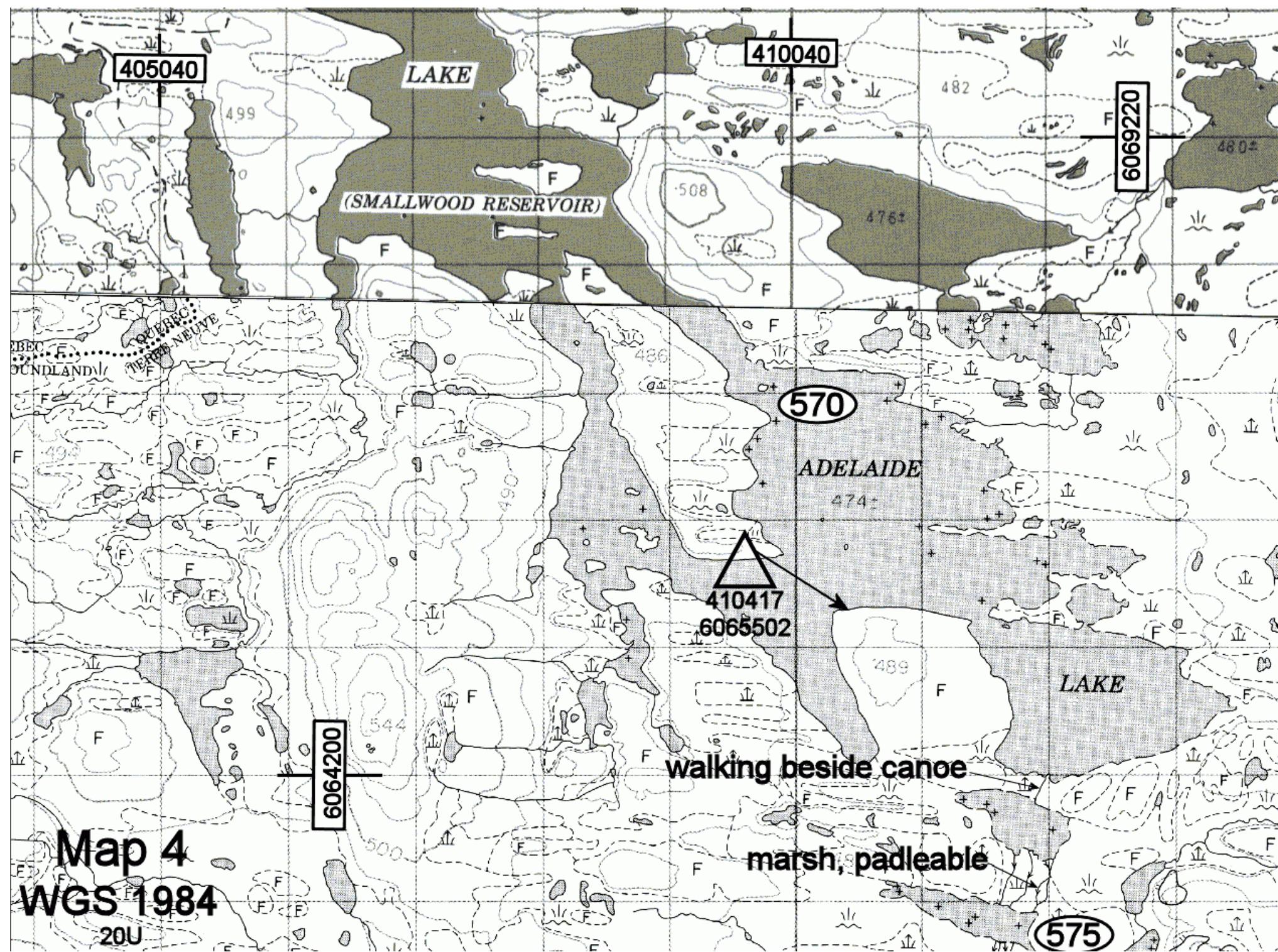
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409080

410784
6059912

Michikamats Lake





rock garden

LAC
475±

560

HUBBARD

HUBBARD

402040

Map 5 WGS 1984

F 20U

P100

410040

very shallow, walking

565

LAKE

0922920

6070220

Map 6 WGS 1984

402040

6082220

West George
River.

Bourdon
Lake

rock garden

404330
6076384

555

shallow
R2

550

R2-3

LAC

ELSON

472 ±

473.4

483

480

497

411040

6076220

555

George River

474.3

476

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Map 7
WGS 1984

200

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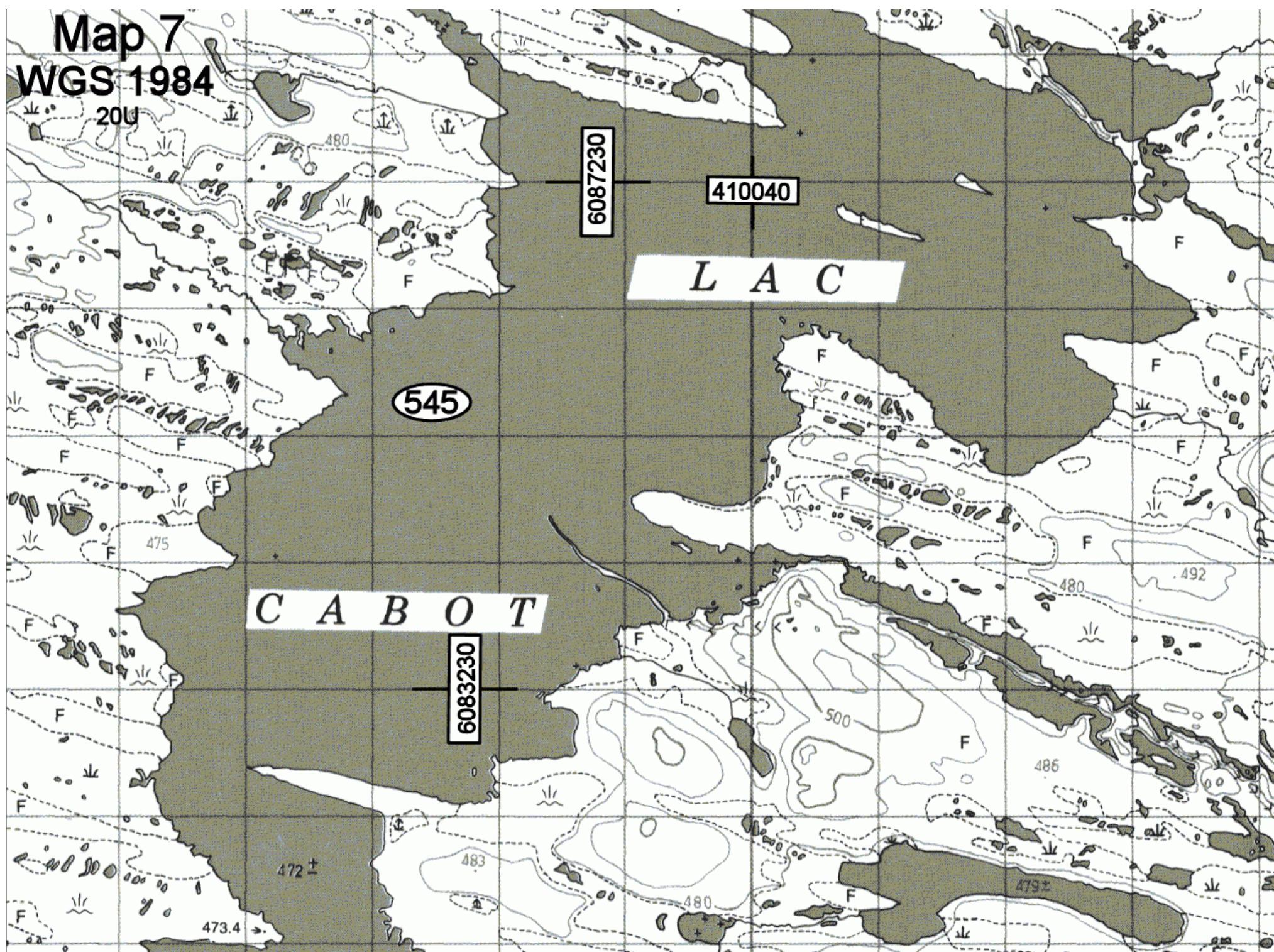
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L A C

545

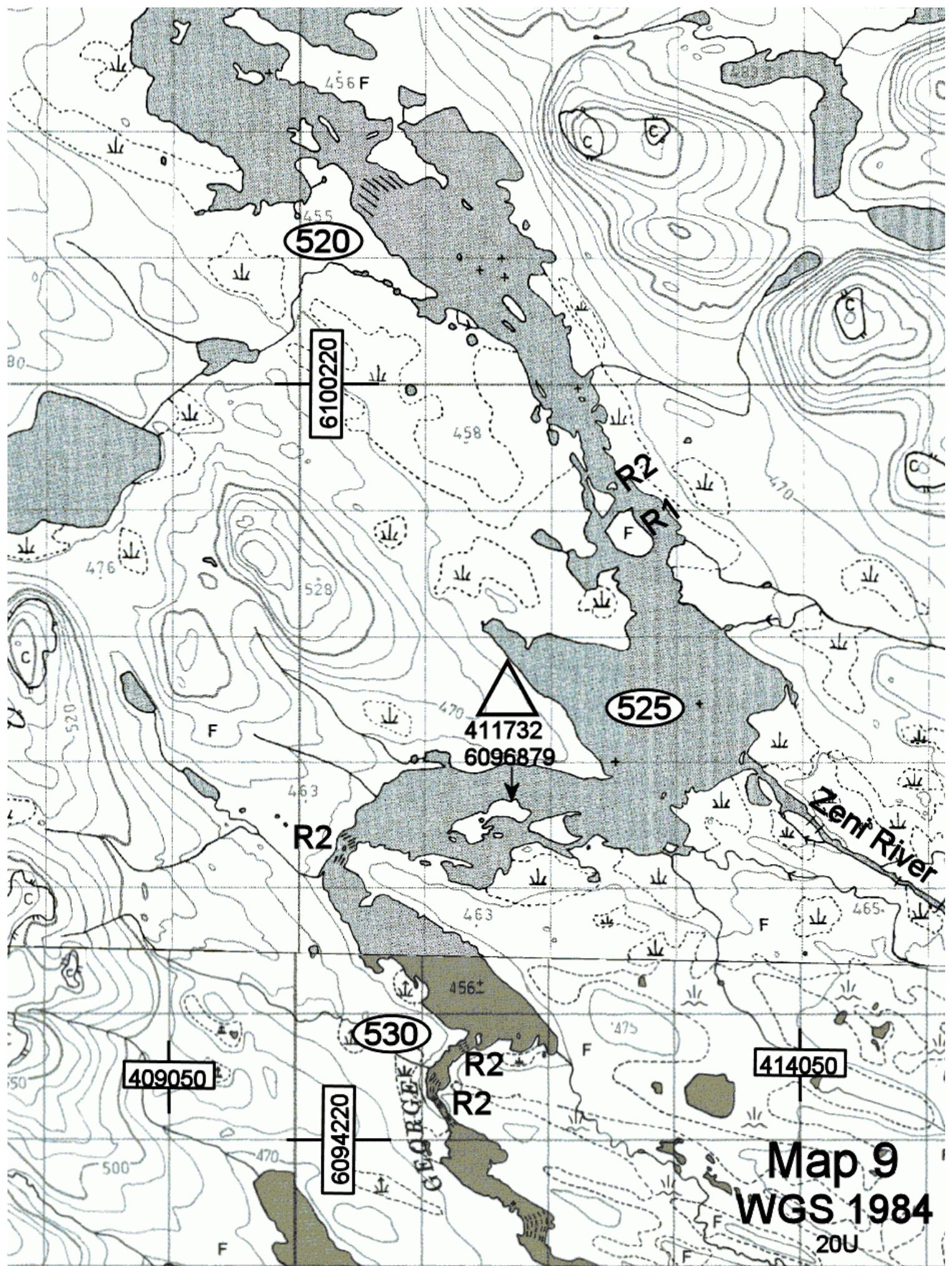
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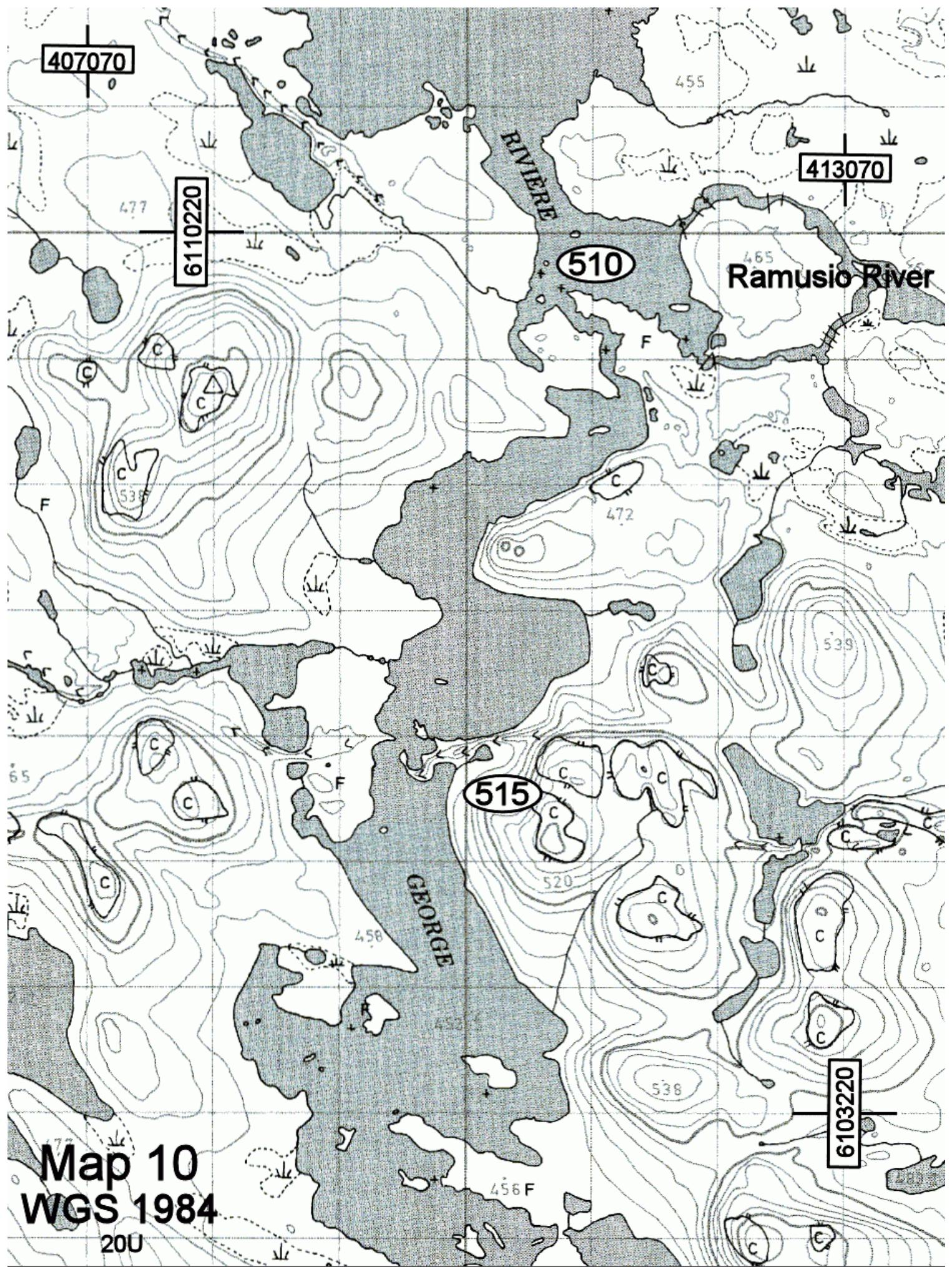


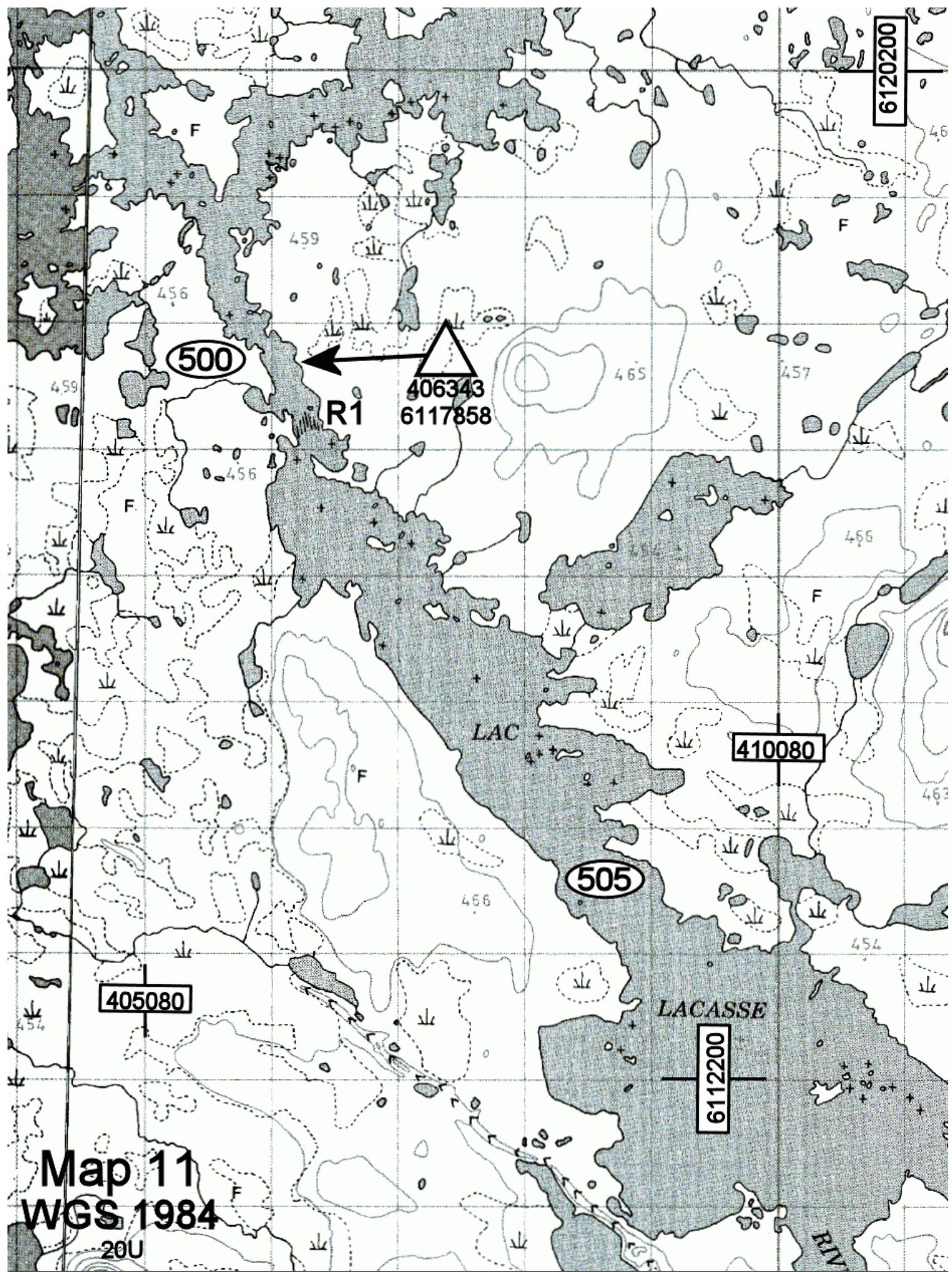
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WGS 1984
20U

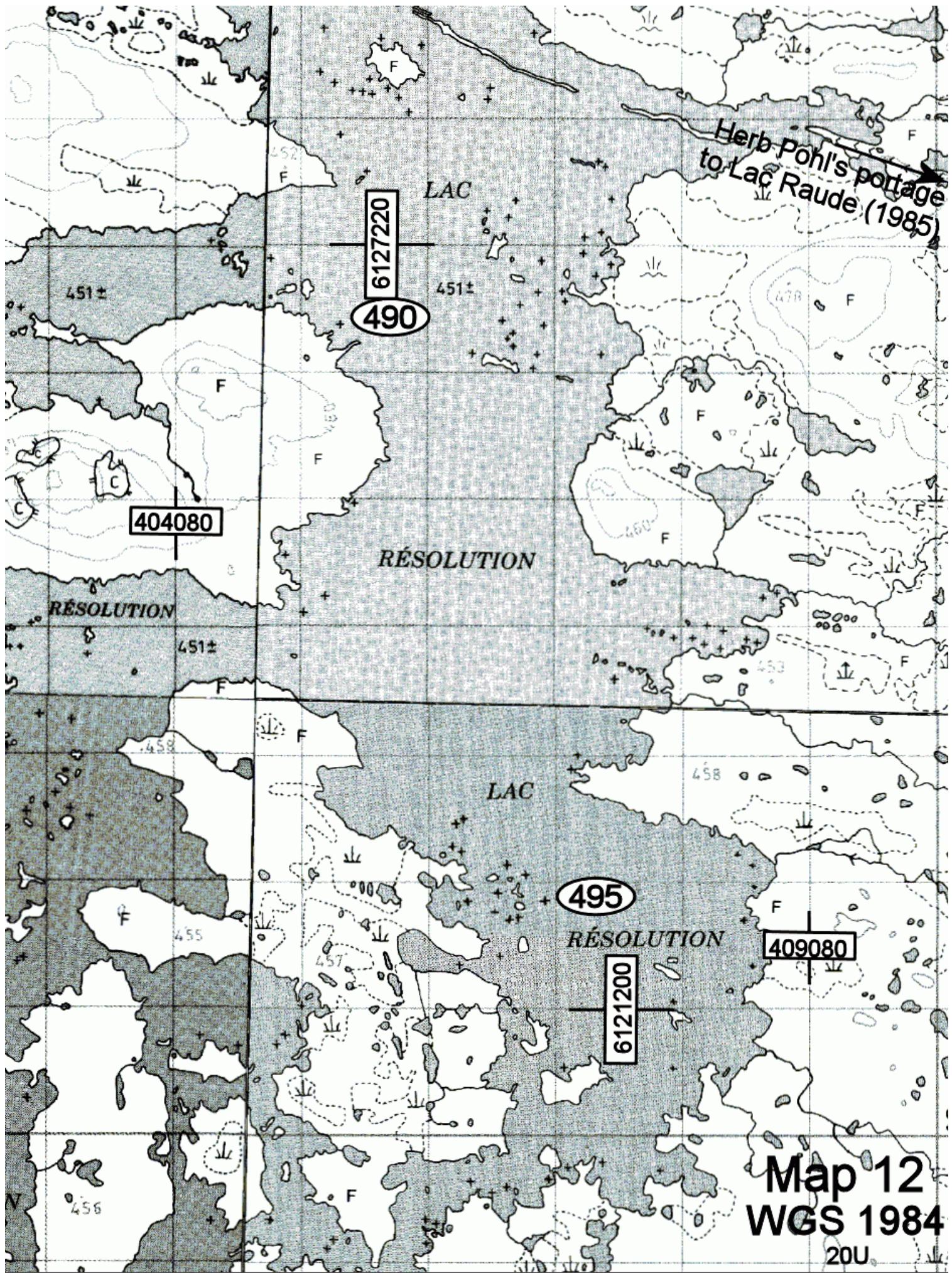




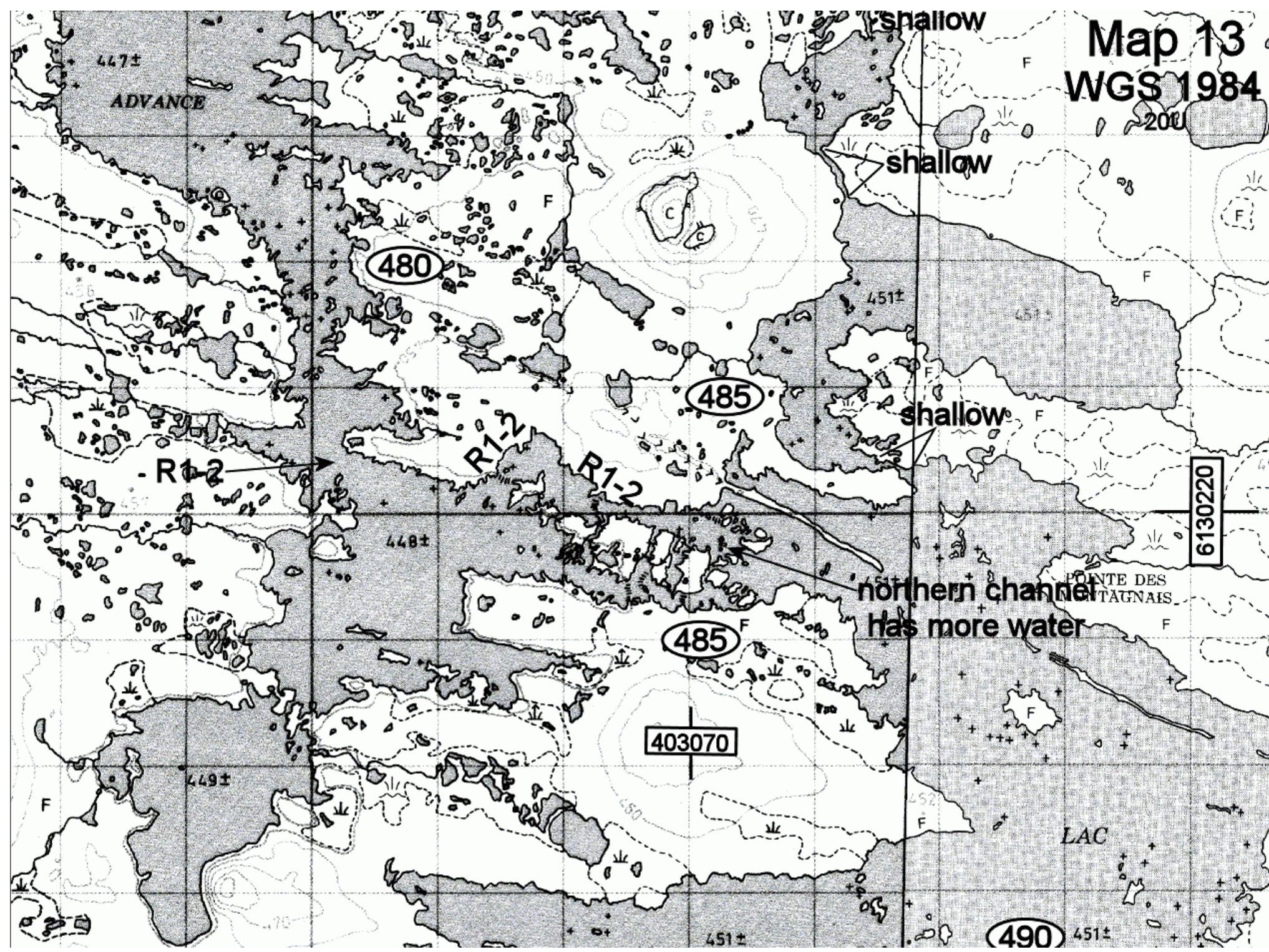
Map 9
WGS 1984
20U







Map 13
WGS 1984
200



Map 14
WGS 1984

R3 (rapid where Dillon Wallace and Clifford Easton capsized on their famous 1905 journey)

R2-3

R2-3

R3 (rapid where Dillon Wallace and Clifford Easton capsized on their famous 1905 journey)

20U

>shallow

475

402079

475

397868
6135643

214

ADVANCE

6135220

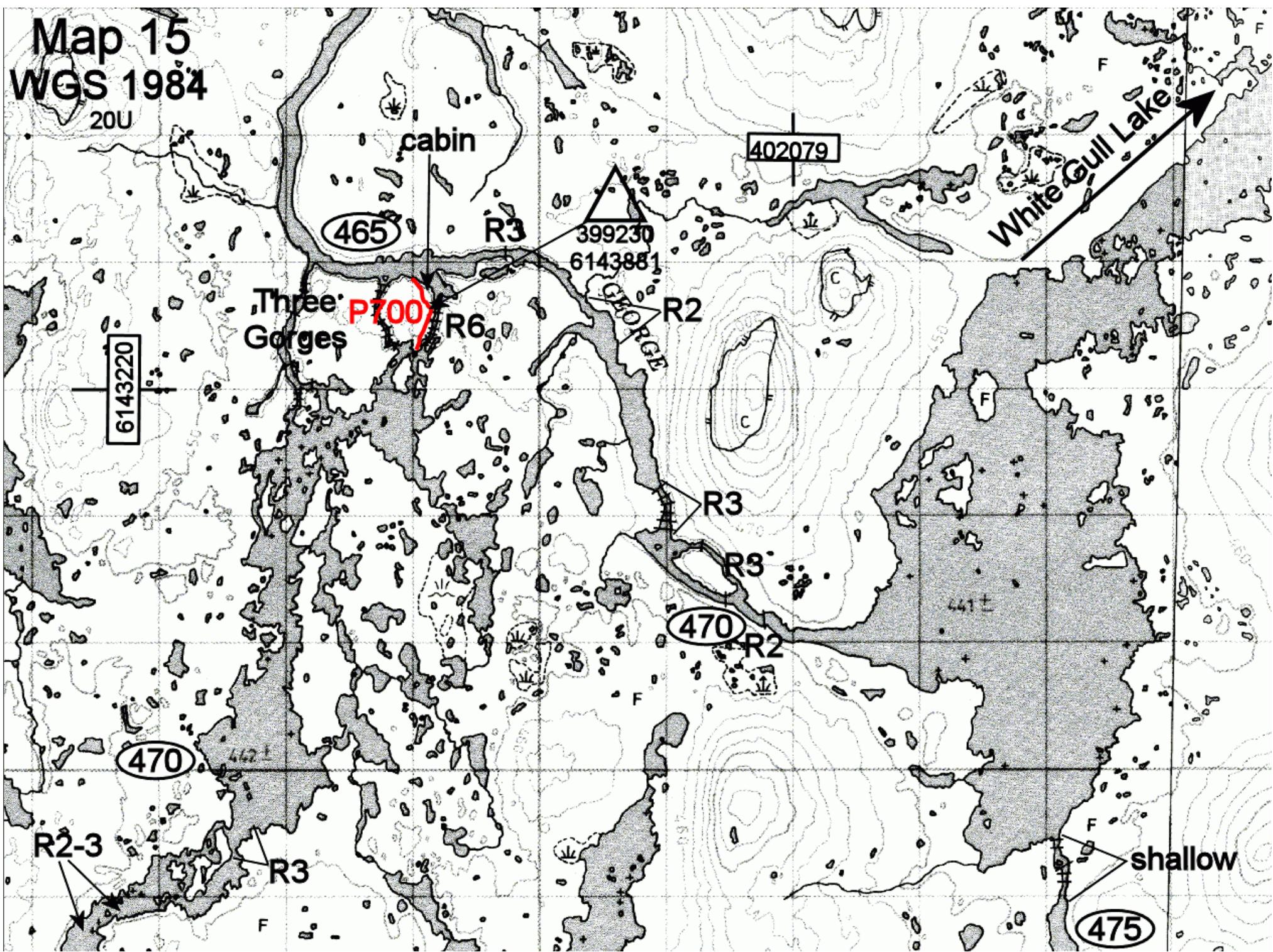
480

shallow

shallow

Map 15
WGS 1984

20U



Map 16

WGS 1984

20U

393080

6154210

R3

R3

R2

R2

455

Pohl Creek

route across the height
of land from De Pas River

460

RIVIERE

R2

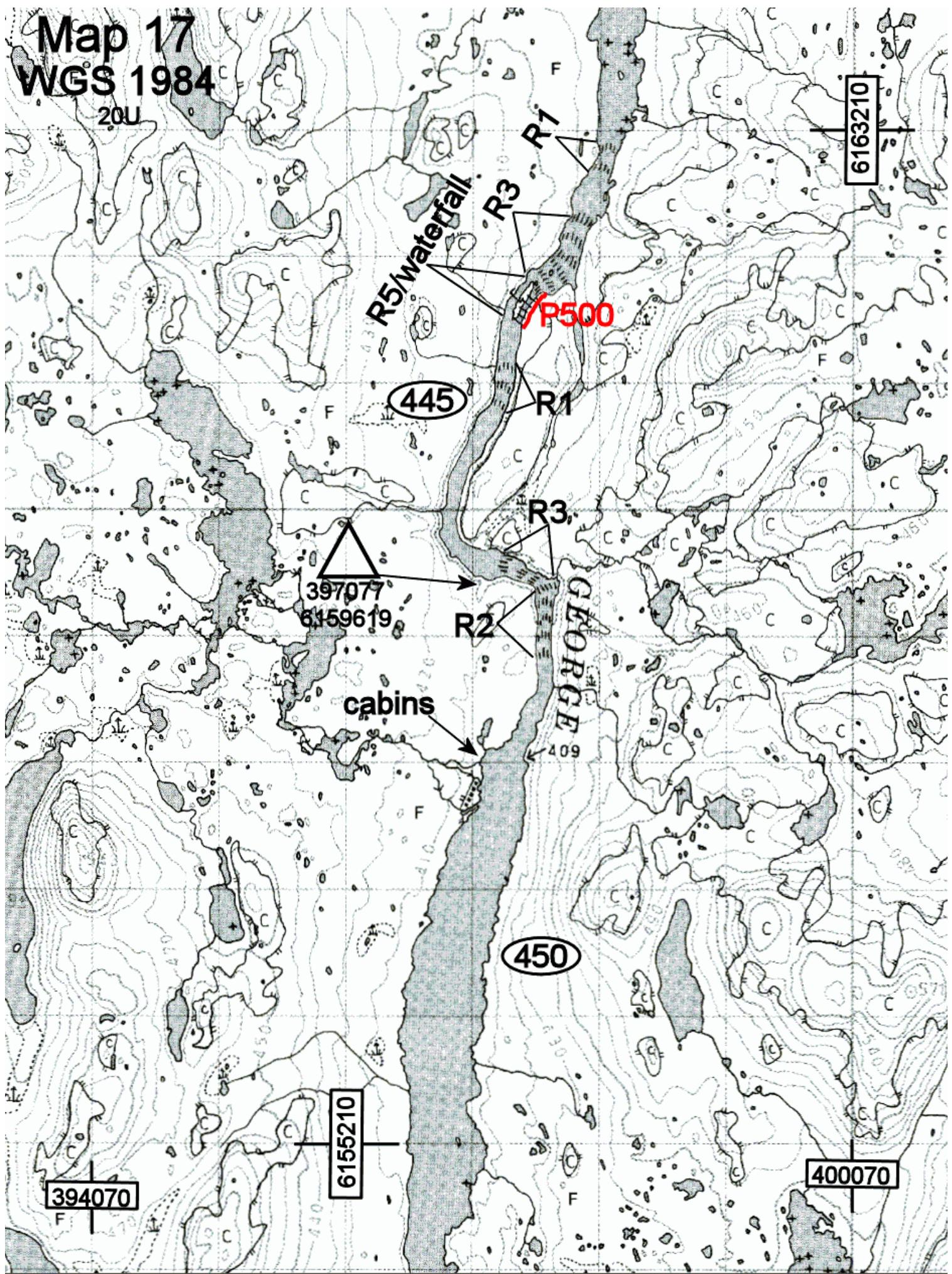
6146210

399080

Map 17

WGS 1984

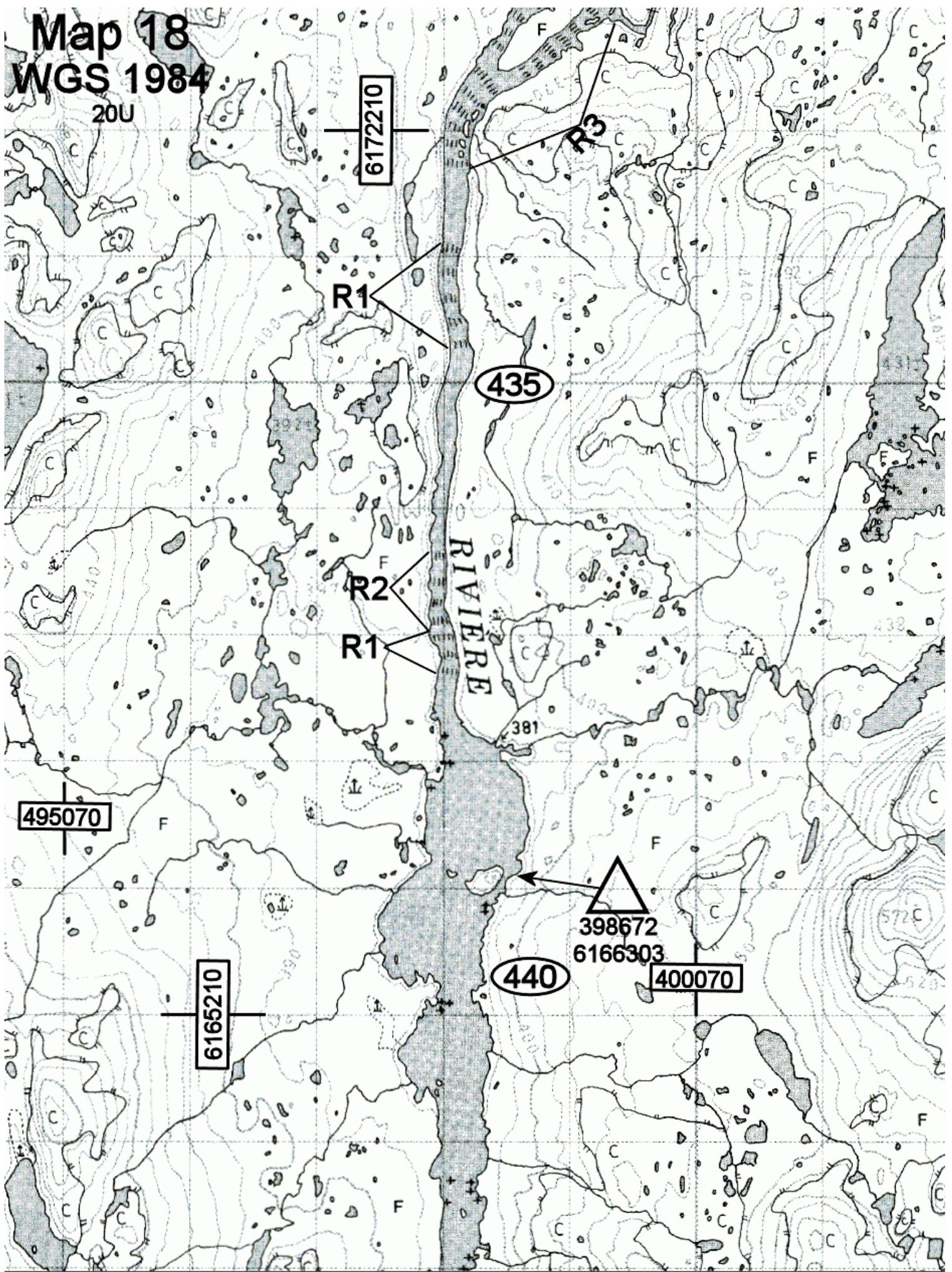
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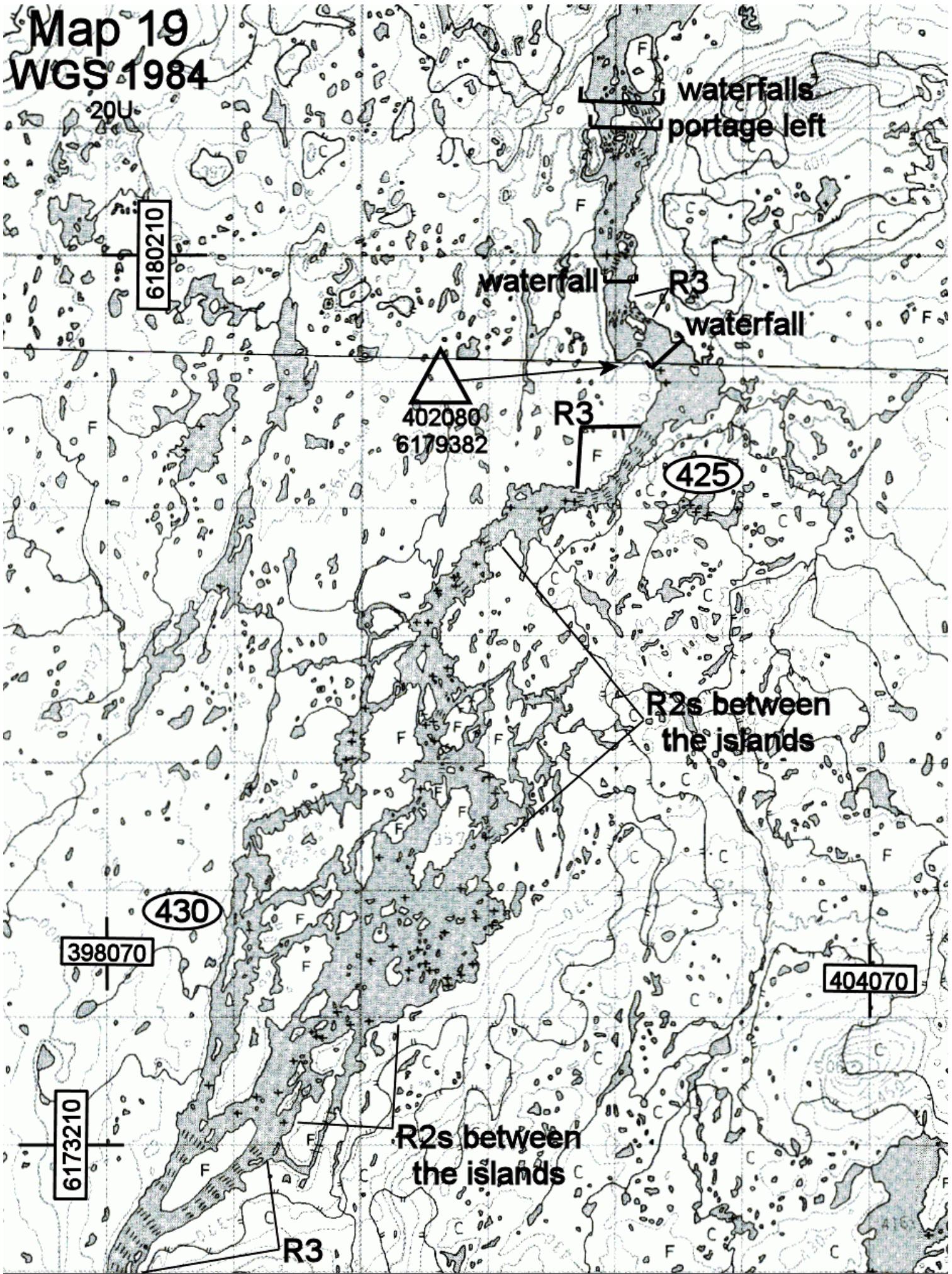
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WGS 1984

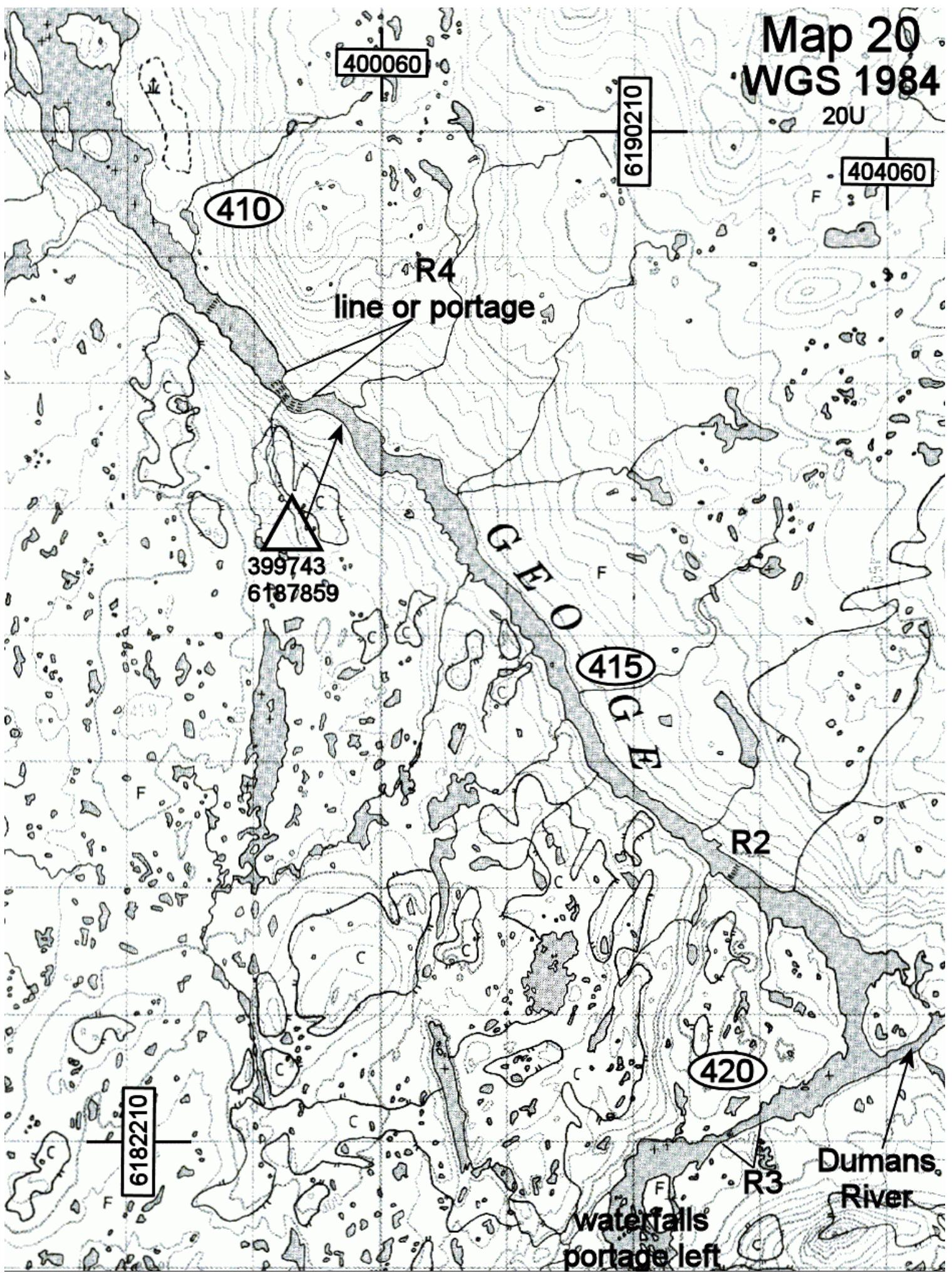
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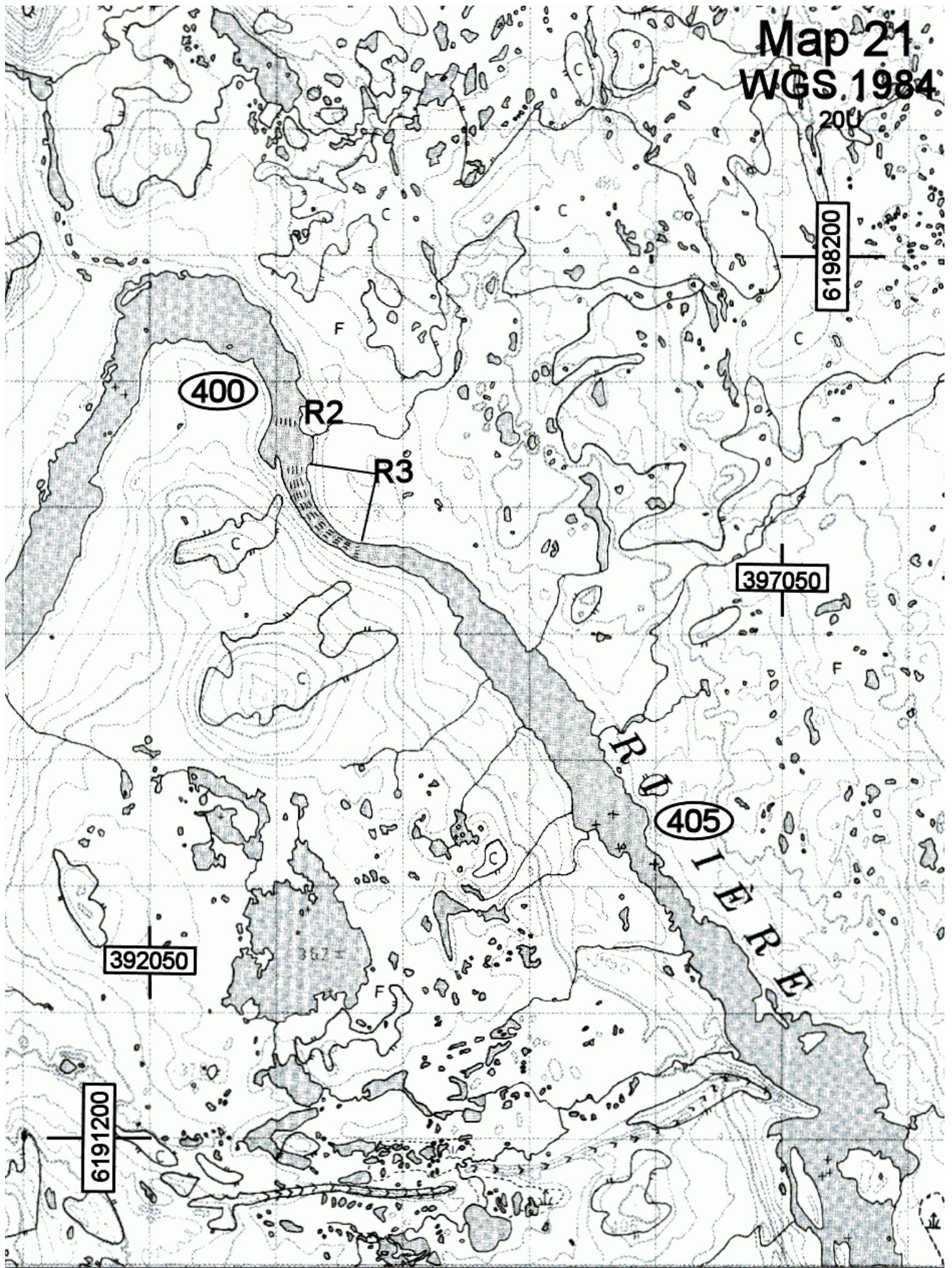
Map 19 WGS 1984



Map 20
WGS 1984
20U



Map 21
WGS 1984



Map 22 WGS 1984

20U

6202200

388050

390

389964
6198250

swifts

395

PA
Twin River Lodge
389810 6196091

400

Teepee
camp

R2

R3

393050

6193200